

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 ( ISO ) W  
-----074011 260120Z /64

R 251840Z JUL 77  
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9251  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS MONTREAL 1210

E. O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, CA  
SUBJ: LABOR VIOLENCE IN MONTREAL

1. VIOLENCE ERUPTED ON QUEBEC LABOR SCENE JULY 22 WHEN 8 UNION MEMBERS WERE WOUNDED, TWO SERIOUSLY, WHEN PRIVATE SECURITY GUARDS OPENED FIRE ON GROUP OF DEMONSTRATORS, AS ABOUT 20 STRIKERS BROKE THROUGH THE FENCE SURROUNDING A MONTREAL FLOUR MILL.

2. ROBIN HOOD FLOUR MILL IS ONE OF FOUR FLOUR MILLS IN MONTREAL WHICH HAD BEEN ON STRIKE SINCE THE END OF JANUARY IN PROTEST AGAINST 40 CENTS PER HOUR ROLL-BACK IN WAGES ORDERED BY THE ANTI-INFLATION BOARD. OF FOUR MILLS, ROBIN HOOD WAS ONLY ONE TO CONTINUE PRODUCTION BY HIRING NON-UNION WORKERS.

3. SHOOTING OCCURED JUST AT TIME AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED TO END STRIKE AT TWO OF THE FOUR MILLS. BUT FOLLOWING OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE, OFFICIALS OF MILL WORKERS UNION, AN AFFILIATE OF CNTU, CALLED OFF SIGNING OF AGREEMENT. THE THREE SECURITY GUARDS WHO OPENED FIRE ARE TO APPEAR IN SESSIONS COURT TODAY TO FACE CHARGES.

4. COMMENT: INCIDENT HAS LED TO CHARGES AGAINST MONTREAL POLICE AND PQ MANPOWER MINISTER JACQUES COUTURE, THE REPRESENTATIVE  
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FOR RIDING IN WHICH VIOLENCE OCCURRED. UNION OFFICIALS SAY BOTH MONTREAL POLICE AND COUTURE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT SECURITY GUARDS WERE ARMED. VIOLENCE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY GIVE IMPETUS TO PQ BILL PROHIBITING USE OF SCAB LABOR FOR BREAKING STRIKES. COUTURE WAS QUOTED IN PRESS TODAY AS SAYING NEW LABOR MINISTER, PIERRE-MARC JOHNSON, WOULD INTRODUCE ANTI-SCAB BILL IN QUEBEC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WITHIN TEN DAYS.

5. INCIDENT HAS ALSO LED TO DEMANDS FOR INVESTIGATION OF ROLE OF PRIVATE SECURITY GUARDS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT. IN EDITORIAL IN TODAY'S LED DEVOIR, CLAUDE RYAN REFERS TO STUDY CARRIED OUT IN 1971 WHICH SHOWED THAT QUEBEC HAD 46 SECURITY AGENCIES AND 32 INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES EMPLOYING A TOTAL OF OVER 8,000 PEOPLE, MOST OF WHOM STILL LABOR UNDER INSUFFICIENT PUBLIC CONTROL. POINTING OUT THAT VIOLENCE IS NOT A STRANGER IN LABOR CONFLICTS, RYAN URGES THE GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE A BROAD-BASED STUDY ON THE VARIOUS FACTORS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO LABOR VIOLENCE.  
HARPER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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